

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 21, 23, 24 and 25 have been amended to better describe the invention. No new matter has been added. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein at least one second coating layer not containing the microcapsules is formed over said first coating layer with the microcapsules dispersed therein, and said second coating layer being transparent and having an outermost layer flexible enough to be prevented from being cracked even upon cracking in the first coating layer.
2. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to claim 1, wherein the outermost layer is capable of elongating at least seventeen times the amount of elongation of any other coating layer in said structure.

3. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to claim 1, wherein said visualizing liquid sealed in said microcapsules contains as principal components a nigrosine compound and a solvent in a weight ratio of the nigrosine compound to the solvent in the range of 1:55 to 1:0.37.

4. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspecting of a crack in a structure according to claim 1, wherein an adhesive strength under shear between the outermost layer in said second coating layer and the immediately underlying coating layer is not higher than 1 MPa.

5. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

6. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

7. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein said visualizing liquid sealed in said microcapsules contains as principal components a nigrosine compound and a solvent in a weight ratio of the nigrosine compound to the solvent in the range 1:55 to 1:0.37.

8. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to claim 2, wherein said visualizing liquid sealed in said microcapsules contains as principal components a nigrosine compound and a solvent in a weight ratio of the nigrosine compound to the solvent in the range of 1:55 to 1:0.37.

9. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspecting of a crack in a structure according to claim 2, wherein an adhesive strength under shear between the outermost layer in said second coating layer and the immediately underlying coating layer is not higher than 1 MPa.

10 (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 9, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

11. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 8, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

12. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 2, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

13. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 3, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

14. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 4, wherein said second coating layer comprises a colored, opaque intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

15. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 14, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
16. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 2, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
17. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 3, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
18. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 4, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
19. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 8, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
20. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 9, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.
21. (Currently amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating layer comprises an epoxy, urethane, acryl, nitrocellulose, silicone or modified silicone resin ~~or mixture thereof~~.
22. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 21, wherein said first coating layer comprises an epoxy resin.
23. (Currently amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein the second coating layer comprises a solvent-diluted type rubbery coating material or a fluid composition containing at least one resin selected from the group consisting of epoxy resin, urethane resin, acrylic resin, silicon resin, or copolymer rubber.

24. (Currently amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 23 comprising the solvent-diluted rubbery coating material, wherein the solvent-diluted type rubbery coating material is polyisobutylene rubber or styrene-butylene copolymer rubber of the second layer is polyisobutylene rubber or a fluid composition containing at least one resin selected from the group consisting of epoxy resin, urethane resin, acrylic resin, silicon resin, modified silicone resin and mixtures thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 5, wherein the intermediate coating is opaquely colored and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, urethane resin, acrylic resin, silicone resin, modified silicone resin and mixture thereof.